

## **MARIO S. VARGAS**

Mr. Mario Vargas is the Executive Director of the Puerto Rican Action Board (PRAB). PRAB is a non profit organization that provides services to improve the quality of life of the low income population of central New Jersey in a bilingual and bicultural setting, and continues its historic role as an advocate for the Latino community.

PRAB's services include early childhood education, youth development, job development assistance, home energy assistance and weatherization services, housing, community advocacy, and other social services to economically disadvantaged individuals and their families. PRAB serves all people regardless of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, familial status, sex, sexual orientation or functional impairment.

Prior to joining PRAB, Mr. Vargas was employed by New Brunswick Tomorrow as the Director of Operations and Communications, a non-profit organization established over 30 years ago to foster public/private networks of agencies, institutions, and organizations to help improve the quality of life for the people in the City of New Brunswick.

Mr. Vargas also serves as the Chairperson of the Hispanic Director's Association of New Jersey. The association's mission is to further the progress of New Jersey's Hispanic Community through cooperation among its members and collaboration with other organizations.

In addition, Mr. Vargas was employed by INROADS/Central New Jersey, Inc., an international career development organization that places talented minority college students in the business industry. Prior to that, Mr. Vargas was employed by Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital as a Patient Representative.

Mr. Vargas graduated from Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Arts, and was conferred a Masters Degree in Public Affairs and Politics from the Edward J. Blouestein School of Public Policy and Planning. Mr. Vargas was a co-founder of the Rutgers Latino Student Council and the University's Center for Latino Arts and Culture. He has also served on the Board of the Center for Latino Arts and Culture at Rutgers University. He is an alum of the Center for Hispanic Policy, Research and Development at the Department of Community Affairs. Currently, Mr. Vargas is an ordained Elder and the Vice President of the Consistory (Board Chair) at Suydam Street Reformed Church located in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Mr. Vargas resides in Highland Park, New Jersey.